

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

NOVEMBER 24, 2009

One of the adverse impacts associated with the Station Fire is the temporary closure of Angeles Forest Highway and Angeles Crest Highway to through traffic. These closures were due to the on-going public safety threat associated with the loss of roadway signage and guard rails, the debris covering the roadways, and mud-flows onto these roads.

Because Angeles Forest to Angeles Crest Highways serves as a convenient by-pass when State Route 14 and Interstate 5 are congested or experience emergencies, these roads are a critical link between Antelope Valley and the Los Angeles basin. These roads are heavily traveled by week-day commuters, and their closure presents an enormous inconvenience to thousands of Antelope Valley commuters.

According to information provided by the Department of Public Works and Caltrans, conditions have now stabilized enough to enable re-opening these roads to through traffic. The current plan is for the roads to open to through traffic commencing on Monday, November 30th.

Despite this re-opening to through traffic, Public Works staff and Caltrans both anticipate temporary closures throughout this winter when rain is expected. In those instances, it is imperative that County and State officials alert the public in advance using all practical means available—including e-mail alerts, media notification, signs—to assist commuters.

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Page: 2

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Works to:

- Organize a town hall meeting in the Antelope Valley in December (and publicize the meeting information in advance in the local media) to address the repair work on Angeles Forest Highway associated with the Station Fire, and publicize the meeting in advance in concert with Antelope Valley media outlets;
- Keep the existing “Driver Notification Signs” in place on south-bound State Route 14, and activate them as far in advance as possible to alert motorists to impending temporary closures due to anticipated inclement weather;
- Identify the feasibility of creating a “Road Conditions” AM radio broadcast for information pertaining to the opening and closing of Angeles Forest and Angeles Crest Highways between Antelope Valley and La Canada Flintridge;
- Establish an e-mail alert notification system that will alert Antelope Valley residents (and other interested parties) concerning upcoming closures of Angeles Forest Highway due to anticipated inclement weather;
- Conduct additional media and public outreach concerning road condition information available on the Department’s CARE web-site; and
- Report back to the Board in 30 days concerning progress on these issues.

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